

Abstract

The invention is directed to providing a communication interface in a network appliance that enables a software update for the network appliance to be securely and wirelessly provided by a mobile node over a relatively limited (short) distance with a mobile node. The operator of the mobile node is authenticated and communication between the network appliance and the mobile node is encrypted. Even if an unauthorized person was able to be positioned in relatively close proximity to a network appliance such as within the physical confines of a data center, these authentication and encryption measures make it difficult for an unauthorized update to be provided to the network appliance. Updating the software for a network appliance can include one or more actions including, but not limited to, deleting existing files, rebooting, uploading new files, such as binaries, scripts, JAVA applications, and the like.